

Applicant: Wehler et al.  
Application No.:

Please cancel claim 1, add claims 24 and 25, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

**In The Claims**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit according to [C]claim [1] 25,  
[characterized by the fact that the means (33) has] wherein the pretensioner comprises:  
at least one common contact surface [(34), the imaginary lengthening of which  
intersects the straight line connecting the two ends (10, 11) in the extended state  
of the line guidance unit (2)] on each segment.
3. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit according to [C]claim [1 or 2,  
characterized by the fact that the means (33) are] 25 wherein the pretensioner is formed on [at  
least one] a side wall [(15, 15')] of a segment.
4. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit according to [C]claim [1, 2 or 3,  
characterized by the fact that the means (33) are] 25 wherein the pretensioner is formed on  
overlapping regions of [neighboring] adjacent segments [(13, 13')].
5. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one of Claims 1 to 4,  
characterized by the fact that a segment (13, 13') which has means (33), where this includes] of  
claim 25 wherein the pretensioner comprises at least one protrusion [(30, 30') which lies against  
a neighboring segment in the extended state of the line guidance unit] formed on a segment and  
in bearing contact with an adjacent segment when in the line guidance unit is in the unloaded  
extend condition.
6. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one of Claims 1 to 5,  
characterized by the fact that] of claim 25, wherein the support strip [(1) has] comprises  
alternating support sections [(3)] and link sections [(8)] and [that] the support sections [(3)] and  
the link sections [(8)] are made from materials with different properties using [the] a multi-  
component forming method.

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7. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to] of [C]claim 6, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the support sections [(3)] and the link sections [(8)] are [produced] manufactured by [the] a multi-component injection molding method.

8. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to] of [C]claim 6, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the support sections [(3)] and the link sections [(8)] are [produced] manufactured by [the] a multi-component extrusion method.

9. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to] Claim 6, 7 or 8, characterized by the fact that] of claim 6, wherein the support sections [(3)] are designed as] define strength-enhancing profiles [(23), preferably as hollow profiles].

10. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one of Claims 6 to 9, characterized by the fact that] of claim 6, wherein the support strip [(1)] is formed from] comprises at least two sections [(4, 5)] joined together.

11. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to] of [C]claim 10, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the sections [(4, 5)] are joined together by positive [or non-positive] locking mechanism.

12. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one] of [C]claim[s] 10 [or 11, characterized by the fact that] wherein the sections [(4, 5)] are releasably joined to one another [so that they can be separated].

13. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one] of [C]claim[s] 5 [to 12, characterized by the fact that] wherein the support sections [(3)] are trapezoidal [and/or rhomboidal] in cross-section.

14. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one] of [C]claim[s] 5 [to 13, characterized by the fact that] wherein the link sections [(8)] are trapezoidal and/or rhomboidal in cross-section.

15. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [according to one] of [C]claim[s 1 to 14, characterized by the fact that] 25 wherein the segments [(13)] are joined to the support [sections (3)] strip by a positive [and/or non-positive] locking mechanism.

16. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to one] of [C]claim[s 1 to 15, characterized by the fact that] 25 wherein the segments [(13)] are releasably joined to the support strip [sections (3) so that they can be separated].

17. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to one] of [C]claim[s 1] 25, [to 16, characterized by the fact that] wherein the segments [(13) and the support sections (3) have joining means (14)] defining a connector for joining the segments to the support strip.

18. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to] of [C]claim 17, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the segments [(13) have] each comprise a side wall[s (15) and that each support section (3) and/or at least one side wall (15) has a recess (16) and/or a first protrusion (17) as joining means (14), which are designed so that the first protrusion (17) engages in the recess (16)] comprising a protrusion; and the support strip defines a recess for receiving the protrusion.

19. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to] of [C]claim 18, [characterized by the fact that at least one] wherein the support section [(3) has] defines a traverse leadthrough [(25) going transversely to the longitudinal direction of the support strip (1)] through which at least one joining element [(18)] extends [which joins the] for joining side walls [(15)] of a segment [(13)] to the support strip.

20. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to one] of [C]claim[s 1 to 19, characterized by the fact that] 25 wherein at least one segment [(13) has] comprises side walls [(15)] which are joined [through] by a first transverse bridge [(19), that] and each of the side walls [(15) has a second protrusion (26, 26')] which are facing one another, whereby the support section (3) is arranged between the first transverse bridge (19) and the second protrusions (26, 26')] comprises opposing protrusions and a transverse bridge between which the support strip is disposed.

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21. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to one] of [C]claim[s 1 to 20, characterized by the fact that] 25 wherein at least one segment [(13) has] comprises side walls [(15) which are joined through]; a first transverse bridge; and a second transverse bridge [(27)].

22. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to one] of [C]claim[s 1] 25, [to 21, characterized by the fact that] wherein at least one segment [(13) has] comprises side walls [(15, 29), where at least one side wall (15) has a partial bridge (28) which is facing the opposite side wall (29)] and a partial bridge spanning at least part of the channel.

23. (Currently Amended) The [L]line guidance unit [(2) according to Claims 1 to 22, characterized by the fact that the segments (13) are joined with two support strips (1)] of claim 25, and further comprising a second support strip joined to the segments.

Please add the following new claims:

24. (New) The line guidance unit of claim 25, wherein the line guidance unit is substantially straight between the first end and the second end when the line guidance unit is in the loaded extended condition.

25. (New) A line guidance unit for guiding lines, the line guidance unit having a loaded and an unloaded extended condition, and comprising:

- a first fixed end;
- a second movable end;
- a plurality of segments;
- a support strip joining the segments, and the segments defining a line channel; and
- a pretensioner joined to the segments to dispose the line guidance unit in an arc-shape when the line guidance unit is in unloaded extended condition for resisting loads when the line guidance unit is in the loaded condition.